

Applicant: Kozikowski et al.  
Serial No.: 10/658,241  
5677-177

**REMARKS**

Claims directed to processes for preparing protected procyanidin (4, 8) oligomers by coupling a tetra-O-protected, C-4 activated catechin or epicatechin monomer with a tetra-O-protected catechin or epicatechin monomer or oligomer in the presence of an acidic clay have been canceled.

The remaining process and product claims involve the use of thio activating groups at the C-4 position of a protected catechin or epicatechin monomer. The C-4 thio-activated monomers are coupled with other protected epicatechin or catechin monomers or they are self-condensed or chain-extended. The reactions are carried out using silver tetrafluoroborate or an acidic clay as the catalyst.

Entry of the amendment is respectfully requested. No new matter is presented.

Date:

April 1, 2004

Respectfully submitted,

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